

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 IO-13 AID-20 NEA-10 EUR-25 CU-04

OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 /162 W

----- 049502

R 250847Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5053

INFO DOD WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ROLE AND
STRUCTURE

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: SECGEN'S 51-PAGE REPORT ON COMPREHENSIVE
REVIEW OF ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF SEATO DISTRIBUTED TO
MEMBER MISSIONS JULY 19 (COPIES POUCHED DEPT FOR WASHINGTON
ADDRESSEES, AND CINCPAC). COUNCIL REPS DISCUSSED REPORT
IN GENERAL TERMS AT THEIR JULY 20 MEETING AND AGREED
ESTABLISH SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE TO PREPARE INITIAL DRAFT
OF THEIR REPORT ON REVIEW: REPORT WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR
PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 28. FIRST MEETING
SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 26 EXPECTED TO IDENTIFY SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBER OF SECGEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH ALL MEMBERS CAN AGREE
AT THIS TIME.

END SUMMARY.

1. SECGEN SUNTHORN'S 51 PAGE REPORT ON COMPREHENSIVE
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REVIEW OF ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF SEATO WAS DISTRIBUTED TO

MEMBER MISSIONS JULY 19. REPORT REFLECTS CONSIDERABLE
THOUGH AND EFFORT ON PART SEC GEN AND SENIOR SEATO STAFF
AND COVERS ALL ASPECTS PRESENT SEATO ACTIVITIES, BOTH CIVIL
AND MILITARY, AND CONCLUDES WITH 29 SEPARATE RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. EMBASSY PARTICULARLY WISHES TO DRAW TO ATTENTION WASHINGTON
ADDRESSEES THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS RE FUTURE OF MPO ACTIVITIES, I.E. MN
PARAS A, 1 THRU Q, X, AA AND BB. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT
DIFFERENCES OF OPINIONS AMONG MEMBERS WILL PROBABLY BE MOST
EVIDENT RE FUTURE OF MPO, PARTICULARLY ITS PLANNING ACTIVITIES.
AT JULY 20 COUNCIL REPS MEETING
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR CRITCHLEY SUMMARIZED GOA VIEWS JUST
RECEIVED FROM CANBERRA RE FUTURE OF SEATO. AMONG VIEWS
EXPRESSED WAS THAT MPO "SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM ALL MILITARY
PLANNING". IT WAS RECOGNIZED IN DISCUSSION THAT SUCH "PLANNING"
TODAY CONSISTS OF LITTLE MORE THAN MINOR BIENNIAL UPDATING.)
ALTHOUGH THAI COUNCIL REP DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS
VIEW WE FEEL THAT RTG, AND PERHAPS GOP, WILL NOT BE DISPOSED TO AGREE
TO
COMPLETE ABANDONMENT MPO PLANNING ACTIVITY, IF THIS IS IN FACT
WHAT AUSTRALIANS INTEND; CRITCHLEY IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION.

3. COUNCIL REPS AT JULY 20 MEETING AGREED THAT SPECIAL SUB-
COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS' REPS (IN MAJORITY
OF CASES THESE WILL BE PWG STALWARTS) BE ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS
SEC GEN'S REPORT AND PREPARE INITIAL DRAFT OF COUNCIL REPS
REPORT TO COUNCIL ON REVIEW WHICH WILL INCORPORATE MEMBERS'S
VIEWS ON FUTURE ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZATION. (PWG
MEMBER R.J. SLOTT AND US MILADREP COL. DERIENZO WILL RE-
PRESENT US.) FIRST MEETING SUB-COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR
JULY 26 AT WHICH TIME THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE IDENTIFIED
ON WHICH ALL MEMBERS CAN AGREE AT THIS TIME. WE THINK
THESE WILL INCLUDE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS IN REPORT:

(C) NO CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN AT THIS TIME TO ESTABLISHING
SEATO REGIONAL CSI TRAINING INSTITUTION (NOTE: SUCH
CENTERS ALREADY EXIST IN THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES; RECENT
THIRD EXPERT STUDY GROUP ON COUNTERSUBVERSION ALSO
RECOMMENDED THIS NOT BE PURSUED).

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(D) SEATO PARTICIPATION IN CSI TRAINING FILMS BE LIMITED
TO ASSISTING IN THEIR PRODUCTION AND THAT SEATO'S FILM-
MAKING CAPACITY NOT BE INSTITUTIONALIZED (NOTE: TO
INSTITUTIONALIZE SEATO FILM-MAKING CAPACITY WOULD BE
FINANCIALLY PROHIBITIVE)

(F) CONTINUANCE OF ANNUAL SEMINARS ON VILLAGE DEFENSE AND
DEVELOPMENT

(K) INCREASE IN SEATO'S ADVISORY SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CSI

PROGRAMS

(R) SEATO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS BE COMPLETELY RE-ORIENTED TOWARDS AID TO PRIMARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (NOTE: THIS WOULD INVOLVE DISCONTINUANCE OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND PHASING OUT OF POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM EXCEPT FOR VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AT BANGKOK'S ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY WHICH WAS FOUNDED BY SEATO)

T) SEATO TO CONTINUE LESS VIGOROUS PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ASPECTS OF SEATO'S WORK HENCEFORTH TO BE REFERRED TO AS "INFORMATION SERVICES"

(U) CHAIRMANSHIP OF WEEKLY PWG MEETINGS BE ON ROTATIONAL BASIS, ANALOGOUS TO THAT FOR COUNCIL REPS MEETINGS (NOTE: SINCE 1957 DESECEN HAS CHAIRED PWG MEETINGS; HOWEVER, BODY OF SECEN'S REPORT RECOMMENDS ABOLISHING CIVIL DESECEN SLOT)

(V) BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE BE ABOLISHED AND FUNCTIONS ASSUMED BY PWG (NOTE: WITH EXCEPTIONS OF AUSTRALIA AND PHILIPPINES, SAME PERSONNEL PRESENTLY SERVE ON BOTH BODIES)

(W) AUDIT COMMITTEE BE RETAINED AND COUNTRIES BE PERMITTED TO CHOOSE AS AUDIT ASSISTANTS QUALIFIED NATIONALS IN BANGKOK IN THEIR OWN OR THE RTG'S EMPLOYMENT

(Z) INFORMATION ADVISORY GROUP BE ABOLISHED (NOTE: THIS IS CONSONANT WITH RECOMMENDATION (T) ABOVE)

4. EMBASSY POUCHING TO EA/RA (ATTN: MISS ISOM) 15 COPIES SECEN'S REPORT ON COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ROLE AND STRUCTURE SEATO UNDER REGISTRY NOS. 608526 THRU 608528. REQUEST THAT COPIES BE PROVIDED APPROPRIATE OFFICES DOD/ISA AND JCS (5 COPIES).

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5. AS SUBCOMMITTEE'S WORK ON REVIEW PROGRESSES WE WILL IDENTIFY THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH THERE IS DISAGREEMENT, REPORT OTHER MEMBERS POSITIONS AND SUBMIT OUR OWN COMMENTS.
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